

REMARKS

Applicant greatly appreciates the courtesy extended by the Examiner during the interview of January 15, 2004.

Claims 1-2, and 4-13 are pending in this application. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 1, 7, and 10-11 have been amended in accordance with the features discussed during the Examiner interview. Claims 12-13 have been added without the addition of new matter.

Regarding the objection to the specification, the Office's attention is directed to the IDS filed on November 19, 2001 citing the Japanese patent application publication (No. 9-96532) mentioned on page 2, lines 10-11 of the current application in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97, 1.98. Also, PTO form 1449, part of the Office Action mailed on June 3, 2003, was initialed to indicate that the reference was considered in accordance with MPEP § 609(A)(1).

Claims 1-3, 5, and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Okano et al. ("Okano") (U.S. Patent No. 6,311,125). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Ihara et al. ("Ihara") (U.S. Patent No.

6,336,073). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, and requests allowance thereof in the pending application for the following reasons.

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

Claims 1-3, 5, and 7-11 are not anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art

Claims 1-3, 5, and 7-11 stand rejected under § 102(b) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art. Applicant strongly contends that the prior art described in the current application fails to disclose the features recited in these claims as amended such as setting an area of a first map, which corresponds to a first part of the route associated with a first type of road, to a first range in a pre-reading process and setting an area of a second map, which corresponds to a second part of the route associated with a second type of road, to a second range in the pre-reading process such that map data size of the area of the second range is less than map data size of the area of the first range, such that the first type of road is indicated by a first road attribute and the second type of road is indicated by a second road attribute, wherein the first type of road differs from the second type of road according to the first road attribute and the second road attribute, and wherein the

first road type denotes a general road other than a throughway, and the second type of road denotes a throughway,.

The prior art disclosed in the Background section of the current application (limited to FIGs. 6 and 7 and related portions of the specification; page 1, line 15 to page 6, line 11) makes no mention of the recited feature of first and second types of road, as indicated by first and second road attributes, wherein the first type of road denotes a general road other than a throughway, and the second type of road denotes a throughway. The Background section (including FIGs. 6, 7) only mentions different types of route link map units including hatched, hatched adjacent, and other map units that are not hatched. The Background section makes completely no mention of first and second road types as indicated by first and second road attributes, wherein the first and second road types include a general road other than a throughway, and a throughway as recited.

Applicant strongly contends that the disclosed prior art of a route link map unit is significantly different from types of road and road attributes indicating the type of road wherein the types of road include a general road other than a throughway, and a throughway as recited. Therefore, the disclosed prior art does not teach nor suggest the recited feature of first and second types

of road, and first and second road attributes indicating the type of road, wherein the first road type denotes a general road other than a throughway, and the second type of road denotes a throughway, making the claimed invention patentably distinct and non-obvious from the disclosed prior art.

Claim 4 is not made obvious in view of Applicant's admitted prior art and Okano

Claim 4 stands rejected under § 103(a) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art and Okano. As contended above, the prior art described in the current application does not mention the recited feature of first and second types of road, and first and second road attributes indicating the type of road making the recited feature patentably distinct and non-obvious from the disclosed prior art and Okano.

Claim 6 is not made obvious in view of Applicant's admitted prior art and Ihara

Claim 6 stands rejected under § 103(a) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art and Ihara. As contended above, the prior art described in the current application does not mention the recited feature of first and second types of road, and first and second

road attributes indicating the type of road making the recited feature patentably distinct and non-obvious from the disclosed prior art and Ihara.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Clint Gerdine (Reg. No. 41,035) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

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required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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